

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2043

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CB

SUBJ: KHMER PRESS DENOUNCES NEGOTIATIONS WITH SIHANOUK
AND CALLS FOR CONTINUED BOMBING

REF: PHNOM PENH 6887

1. SUMMARY. EDITORIALS AND COMMENTARIES IN THE JULY
10 EDITIONS OF PHNOM PENH'S TWO KHMER LANGUAGE DAILIES
(BOTH GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED) TAKE A HARD LINE AGAINST
NEGOTIATIONS WITH SIHANOUK, ESPECIALLY ANY MEETING
BETWEEN KISSINGER AND SIHANOUK. THEY ALSO CALL FOR CONTINUED
U.S. BOMBING, INCLUDING BOMBING OF NORTH VIETNAM,
AS NECESSARY TO REACH A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION
TO THE KHMER CONFLICT. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING UP ITS COMMENTARY OF JULY 7 (REFTEL) THE
KHMER LANGUAGE ARMY DAILY RUOM KAMLAING IN A JULY 10
EDITORIAL WONDERS WHY QTE CERTAIN POLITICAL AND
FOREIGN PRESS QUARTERS UNQTE OFTEN CITE THE NAME OF
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SIHANOUK IN CONNECTION WITH A SOLUTION TO THE KHMER

PROBLEM. ANSWERING ITS OWN QUESTION THE PAPER CONCLUDES THAT THIS IS BECAUSE QTE IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES THEY HEAR ONLY SIHANOUK'S PROPAGANDA UNQTE. THE EDITORIAL THEN GOES ON TO CLARIFY (IN THE STANDARD GKR MANNER) THAT IN REALITY SIHANOUK IS NOW NOTHING MORE THAN A POLITICAL EXILE WHO HAS PUT HIMSELF AT THE SERVICE OF PEKING. QTE HE NO LONGER HAS ANY HOLD ON THE KHMER PEOPLE WHO DEPOSED HIM ON MARCH 18, 1970. HE NO LONGER HOLDS THE STATUS OF KHMER CHIEF OF STATE BECAUSE THE CHIEF OF STATE SHOULD RESIDE IN PHNOM PENH ON KHMER TERRITORY, WITH THE OTHER POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS - GOVERNMENT, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, SENATE. UNQTE.

3. FURTHERMORE, THE EDITORIAL CONTINUES, SIHANOUK IS NOT THE LEADER OF THE KHMER WHO ARE PRESENTLY FIGHTING AGAINST THE REPUBLIC. TO THE CONTRARY THESE KHMER ROUGE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SWORN ENEMIES OF SIHANOUK. IN REALITY, THEREFORE, SIHANOUK IS ONLY AN INSTRUMENT OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND VIETCONG WHO USE HIM AS A SHIELD FOR THEIR INVASION OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC, THE PAPER DECLARES.

4. AS FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF A KISSINGER-SIHANOUK MEETING THE EDITORIAL SETS THIS OUT ENTIRELY BECAUSE IF THERE WERE SUCH A MEETING. QTE IT WOULD CAUSE AMERICA TO LOSE HONOR. ONE RECALLS THAT LAST MONTH SIHANOUK DECLARED AT BELGRADE TO THE NEWSPAPER BORBA THAT HE WANTED TO NEGOTIATE ONLY WITH THE AMERICANS. IF IT IS NECESSARY TO NEGOTIATE, HE SAID, IT SHOULD BE WITH THOSE AGAINST WHOM WE ARE FIGHTING, THAT IS TO SAY THE AMERICANS. THUS IF THE AMERICANS AGREE TO NEGOTIATE WITH SIHANOUK THEY WILL CERTAINLY FALL INTO HIS TRAP. IN OTHER WORDS BY MAKING THIS MOVE THE AMERICANS WILL ADMIT THAT THEY WERE THE AGGRESSORS AGAINST THE KHMER JUST AS SIHANOUK HAS ALWAYS CHARGED. UNQTE.

5. HOWEVER, THE PAPER ADDS, IF MR. KISSINGER GOES TO PEKING SIMPLY TO PERSUADE CHINA TO ASSIST IN RESTORING PEACE BY HALTING ITS MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE KHMER ON THE OTHER SIDE, HE MAY WELL OBTAIN SATISFACTORY RESULTS.

6. A COMMENTARY IN THE SAME PAPER AND AN EDITORIAL IN THE GOVERNMENT DAILY PRAYOCH KHMER BOTH EMPHASIZE THE NEED

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FOR CONTINUED BOMBING IF A SOLUTION IS TO BE REACHED. IN THE OPINION OF RUOM KAMLAING. QTE THERE WILL BE NO SOLUTION TO THE KHMER PROBLEM WITH THE COMMUNISTS UNLESS THERE ARE NEW BOMBARDMENTS OF NORTH VIET NAM UNQTE.

7. PRAYOCH KHMER EMPHASIZES THE PROFOUND DESIRE FOR PEACE WHICH THE GKR HAS SHOWN IN THE 6 POINT DECLARATION ISSUED BY FOREIGN MINISTER LONG BORET ON JULY 6. BUT

SINCE THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND VIETCONG DO NOT SHARE THIS
DESIRE AND CONTINUE TO BE DRIVEN BY THEIR PLAN OF GENOCIDE
AGAINST THE KHMER NATION QTE WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE
KHMER PROBLEM WILL BE SOLVED BEFORE AUGUST 15. IT IS
FOR THIS REASON THAT WE EMPHASIZE THE IMPERATIVE NECESSITY
OF CONTINUING BOMBARDMENT IN SUPPORT OF KHMER TROOPS UNQTE.
PRAYOCH KHMER IS CONFIDENT THAT PRESIDENT NIXON WILL MAKE
EVERY EFFORT TO CONTINUE THE BOMBING AFTER AUGUST 15 AND
CONCLUDES THAT QTE THERE WILL NOT BE A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION
HERE UNLESS NEGOTIATIONS AND BOMBING CONTINUE TOGETHER UNQTE.
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